

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd March 1902.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.			
The capture of Lord Methuen ...	153	A railway complaint ...	161
Lord Methuen's capture by the Boers ...	ib.	Wanted some roads in the Bankura district ...	ib.
Delarey's recent achievement ...	154	The proposed railway line from Hooghly to Katwa and Ahmadpur ...	ib.
The capture of Lord Methuen ...	ib.		
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(h)—General—	
(a)—Police—			
Drunken revelry at the Sitakundu <i>mela</i> ...	ib.	The Government and the Zamindar of Ula ...	ib.
Oppression of women in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.	Forced <i>rasad</i> for the Commissioner of Rajshahi ...	162
(b)—Working of the Courts—		A postal complaint ...	ib.
A Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh ...	155	Postal reform ...	ib.
Block in the Calcutta High Court ...	ib.	Postal reform ...	ib.
Two Deputy Magistrates of Noakhali ...	ib.		
(c)—Jails—		III.—LEGISLATION.	
Nil.		Nil.	
(d)—Education—		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Strange occurrences in the Rajshahi College ...	ib.	Nil.	
A Bengali text-book for the Middle Vernacular Examination condemned ...	156	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Mr. Orange's appointment to the Director-Generalship of Education ...	ib.	Nil.	
A benighted Commission ...	ib.	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Re-assessment of residential houses in Calcutta ...	157	The coming coronation ...	163
Complaints from Midnapore ...	158	The Delhi Coronation Durbar and the Id-ul-Fitr festival ...	ib.
Condition of certain villages in the Faridpur district ...	159		
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		URIYA PAPERS.	
The Permanent Settlement question ...	ib.	Small-pox in the Balasore district and Mayurbhanj ...	
(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—		Prospects of the mango crop in Orissa ...	
The Chief Auditor of the Assam-Bengal Railway ...	ib.	Cow-pox in the Cuttack district ...	
Inconvenience and hardship of passengers at the Sitakundu <i>mela</i> ...	ib.	Distress in the Balasore district ...	
Village roads under the Chittagong District Board ...	ib.	Dying out of thorny bamboos in the Balasore district ...	
Railway Complaints ...	160	Immigration from the Nilgiri Tributary State ...	
A railway enquiry ...	ib.	Lord George Hamilton on the condition of the agricultural population of India ...	
Wanted a road and a bridge in the Nator subdivision of the Rajshahi district ...	161	Crop outlook in Orissa ...	
		Eulogy upon Mr. Risley ...	
		Hand weaving instruction in Orissa ...	
		Tiger in a village in the Cuttack district ...	
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge ...	

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

SANKHANIDHI
GAZETTE,
Mar. 15th, 1902.

1. Referring to the capture of Lord Methuen, the *Sankhanidhi Gazette* [Dacca] of the 15th March says it is awful to contemplate that the fate of the Boer hero Cronje has overtaken Lord Methuen—the redoubtable British General who fought him at the Modder River. There has been immense sensation in England, and who knows what the consequence will be—whether the Boer War will come to a close or will be prosecuted with redoubled energy. When in the American War of Independence, Lord Cornwallis was captured, the British Government made peace with the United States, and consented to their independence. If a similar thing does not happen now in the South African War, the country of the Boers will be reduced to a desert. The British are not to be cowed down by the capture of a single General—they have lots of brilliant Generals. Every native of India is sorry at heart to hear the news of Lord Methuen's capture, and hopes that the news may yet turn out to be false.

The capture of Lord Methuen.
Lord Methuen's capture by the Boers.

2. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 15th, 1902.

FEARFUL REVERSE IN THE BOER WAR.

THE BRITISH GENERAL CAPTURED.

British guns and provisions looted.

The thought had not crossed our minds that we should have to hear so suddenly of so terrible a reverse as this. That the famous English General, Lord Methuen, should after such hard fighting be defeated, wounded and captured by that Boer hero, Delarey, was what our imagination could not conceive. The country of the Boers is as it were enchanted land, where the impossible becomes possible, and dead trees blossom and put forth leaf and branch, and where the roasted fish comes back to life and swims away. How else and under the influence of what spell could the Boers, who had been very nearly burnt up and reduced to a moribund condition, give themselves a shaking and rise from their death bed, and arming themselves with sword and shield defeat the English in a dreadful battle? We had assured ourselves that it was that wily Boer strategist and General, De Wet, who would be captured this time, but why is the result to-day the very opposite of what had been expected? Why is Methuen captured and not De Wet? How is it that De Wet is not being captured, the man, that is, for whose capture the British Government has been making the greatest endeavour for the last two months and setting on foot extensive preparations while twenty thousand British troops are always ready and moving about the country? Why have the English not yet succeeded in catching De Wet, for whose capture the British Government has erected innumerable block houses of stone in the Orange State at a cost of crores of rupees, with the result that that State is now surrounded by an impenetrable wall? When last time De Wet cut the chain, broke through the net, and penetrated the block house wall and fled along the route that lay in front of British troops, at least twenty thousands of those soldiers took up their position on that wall, extending over thirty miles, and discharged a ceaseless shower of shot and shell the like of which had not been seen since the commencement of the Boer war, with the exception perhaps of the brisk practice of artillery which was witnessed in the course of the fighting on the banks of the Tugela in the fourth month of the first year of the present war. In spite of such preparations, success has not attended the operations of the British Generals. Some say De Wet bears a charmed life, while others are positive that despite his wonderful power, he and his army will be soon defeated and captured by British valour and perseverance. Holding as we do the latter view, we had been for the past fortnight thinking of De Wet's death or capture. But what is this unexpected thing that we hear of now? Why does the rapid seaward current of the Bhagirathi, full to overflowing in the month of Bhadra, sharply and suddenly turn round and flow in the opposite direction? Why is Methuen and not De Wet captured today? Why do sadness and depression make their

appearance on a day of rejoicing? Nothing can avert what Providence has ordained. It is hard to understand His ways, and regrets and sorrows are of no avail.

During the earlier stages of the war, Lord Methuen was the rival and opponent of Cronje, who was at last captured by the English. To-day Methuen is captured by the Boers. Who can understand the wonderful ways of Providence?

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 17th, 1902.

3. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March writes as follows:—

Delarey's recent achievement.

The telegraphic intelligence of the engagement with the Boers on the 11th March last has astonished the public. No one could at first put faith in the news; for it could hardly be imagined that Lord Methuen, an English General, should be defeated and taken prisoner by the Boers. For the last few months the telegrams sent out from the seat of war by the British authorities have been little else than long catalogues of captives made by the English. Commandant Scheepers has ended his heroic life on the gallows. The trial of Commandant Kritzinger is not yet over. Troop after troop of Boers are either surrendering themselves or being made prisoners. The English officers are defeating small Boer forces by night attacks. News like these naturally create the impression that it will not be long before the war is over. But when we hear, at the same time, the declaration made by Mr. Brodrick, the War Secretary, in Parliament, to the effect that ten thousand horses are being sent out every month to South Africa, and that the number of English soldiers there is being steadily increased, we cannot put any faith in these news of British successes, and are troubled by misgivings as to the probable duration of the war.

These misgivings are being changed into positive alarm by the tidings of the humiliation suffered by British officers at the hands of the Boers. There is no means of ascertaining the real fighting strength of the Boers, and it is doubtful whether the English Generals themselves have any certain information on the point. The generalship of the Boer Commanders has astonished the world. The Boer heroes have few compeers in the world. De Wet's feats of arms are of a superhuman character, and Delarey's recent achievement is such as no one else could have equalled. Delarey's heroism and his courtesy to his prisoners have won for him the respect and admiration of the world.

It need hardly be said that the end of the Boer war is yet very far indeed.

PALLIVASI,
Mar. 19th, 1902.

4. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 19th March expresses sorrow at the

The capture of Lord Methuen.

capture of Lord Methuen. It would be a good day for us when the British would stop this ruinous and long-protracted war. The loyal Indian subjects of His Majesty the King-Emperor Edward VII will be very happy to see a cessation of bloodshed and of the tears of the distressed during the coronation period.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

JYOTI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

5. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th March says that for some years

Drunken revelry at the Sitakundu *mela*.

past a party of respectably-dressed native gentlemen from Dacca and Calcutta have been visiting the Sitakundu *mela*. They generally come two or three days before the Sivaratri day and stay five or six days after the *mela* is over. Some Government servants, it is said, join this party. They indulge in all sorts of merry-making, and at Premtola and other places, where a large number of pilgrims assemble, these people are seen indulging in drunken revelry, rolling on the ground. The matter is worth the serious consideration of the police.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 13th, 1901.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th March says that sometime ago

Oppression of women in the Mymensingh district.

a number of *budmashes* ravished a Brahmin woman, an inhabitant of the village Seki in the Mymensingh district. On the night of the 7th Falgoon last a young girl, aged 17 or 18, daughter of Felu Gop, an inhabitant of the village Induti in the Mymensingh district, was kidnapped by two

Muhammadans, inhabitants of the neighbouring village Dagra. She returned on the following night. She deposed before the Sub-Inspector of the Kalifati thana, who came to investigate the case, that the Musalmans gagged her and kept her in concealment in a large basket for sometime, and that when on the night of the 8th Falgoon they were taking her to the bazar at Gopalpur, they met one Pitambar Pal, an inhabitant of the village Mahisjora, who frightened them so much by what he said, that they took her back to her house and left her there. An officer, who lives in Kokadahara in the service of Srimati Dinamani Chaudhurani, zamindar, has taken the side of the culprits, and is influencing the witnesses for the prosecution in their favour.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

7. A correspondent writes from Sherpur to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th March to say that Rai Radha Bullabh Chaudhuri Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh, is very much given to passing sentences of whipping on criminals. He is also fond of summary trials and generally metes out punishment so as to give the criminal no opportunity, under the law, to appeal. The Rai Bahadur will please remember that he is not infallible, and he should not therefore deprive criminals of their lawful right of appeal.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 11th, 1902.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th March says that although there is a block in the criminal appeal work of the Calcutta High Court, yet nothing is being done to relieve the existing Judges by appointing an additional bench. Having to conclude cases within very short times, the Judges on the appellate side find no time to hear them fully and deliver judgments after careful consideration. This accounts for the fact that now-a-days most of the appeals are rejected. Where the lives of men are at stake and where a small mistake may be sufficient to send a man to the prison or the gallows, Judges should have enough time to think and judge calmly. So long as one is not put to a very hard position, one does not appeal to the High Court and incur a prodigious expenditure. Therefore if the Judges of the High Court find no time to calmly hear appeals, people will suffer greatly through the highhandedness and imprudence of the Judges of lower courts.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

9. The *Surhid* [Noakhali] of the 14th March says that on Friday (the 7th) Shashi Babu, a Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali, after hearing all the evidence in a case, left the court-room, saying that he was going to the dispensary, and that on his return he would deliver judgment. On his way to the dispensary, he was accosted by the complainant in the case, who fell at his feet and held his legs with his hands and pathetically urged that it would be impossible for him to continue to live in his house if the accused were let off. Upon this, Shashi Babu abandoned the idea of going to the dispensary, hastened back to the court-room, and finished writing out his judgment in a short time, letting off the accused. It is said that the evidence was overwhelming against the accused, and he had offered the complainant Rs. 150 for withdrawal of the complaint.

SURHID,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

Ashu Babu, another Deputy Magistrate of Noakhali, is not liked by the people on account of his manners. He takes superior airs to himself on the bench and looks down upon the Mukhtars as a worthless set of people. He often calls them "humbugs," and addressing some of them often says: "Why are you making a fool of yourself?" "Why are you raving like a mad man?" The other day he called a respectable Mukhtar "a mad man" in open court.

(d).—Education.

10. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes as follows:—
Babu Fatik Chandra Chattopadhyaya is the second teacher of the Rajshahi Collegiate School, and Superintendent of the College hostel, in which he occupies a room. For sometime past stones have been thrown into his room every night. Recently it was found written on a prominent place in the hostel that Fatik Babu would be shot if he stirred from his room at night. This was brought to the notice of the Principal of the College, but to no effect.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

Perhaps the Principal is busy defending himself. Sometime ago the *punkhas* in the school house were burnt down at night, and an attempt was made to set fire to the beams. Afterwards there was found in the house a writing which contained, in the form of the drama, a conversation which had taken place between the Principal and some teachers of the school in the house of a respectable man in Boalia. The Director of Public Instruction should institute a strict enquiry into the matter and restore order in the school and college.

SAMAY,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

11. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 14th March condemns a Bengali text-book for the Middle Vernacular Examination condemned. "Sahitya Sar," the literature reader by Babu Nrisinha Chandra Vidyaratna, which has been appointed for the Middle Vernacular and Middle English Examinations of 1903, as an unsuitable text-book on the ground that some of the pieces contained in it, which are the author's own translations from English, are disfigured by unidiomatic and ungrammatical Bengali, which though it may be condoned in writers notorious for their slipshod language, is certainly unpardonable in Nrisinha Babu, who is known as a Sankritist and possesses the academic title of Vidyaratna.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

12. Referring to the appointment of Mr. F. W. Orange as Director-General of Education in India, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th March says that Mr. Orange is only thirty-five years of age, and it is remarkable that he has been entrusted with such a high and responsible office at so early a period of his life. But our present Viceroy, though comparatively young in years, is giving proof of ripe statesmanship such as none among his grey-headed predecessors gave. There is a saying that a man is wise not because of his years, but because of his acquirements; and the appointment of Mr. Orange as the supreme head of the Education Department in India lends colour to the saying. We hope Mr. Orange will justify his selection by acquitting himself well. But it should be observed here that the Viceroy would not have done wrong if he had given the appointment to an experienced European officer of the Indian Education Department.

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 17th, 1902.

13. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th March has the following in English:—

A benighted Commission.

"People are loth to believe in Commissions, because they seldom get at real facts. The persons who mostly play the friend, guide and philosopher to these bodies cannot speak the whole truth without taking at least some portion of the blame upon themselves. Hence they indulge in vague accusations and much irrelevant talk. What can they do? The proprietor of a private college cannot be candid enough to say that it is not to his interest to keep a highly-paid teaching staff, or to enforce a high code of discipline, or to try to realise a high ideal of teaching.

"A teacher or an examiner will not say that his mode of teaching or setting papers is not all right. The syndics will not admit that their business is mostly of a mechanical nature and has very little to do with the promotion of sound culture. But the facts are there. If the teachers, examiners and the University authorities had all done their work properly, where would have been the necessity of a Commission? The great bane of this system of education is that stereotyped papers extinguish liberty in teaching. Both the teachers and the taught keep their eye on the success list. Even the Government colleges that can afford to keep the ideal of teaching high are not free from the contagion. This arises chiefly from the want of proper men, who from their erudition and culture will not stoop to the system of coaching.

"An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory. Take, for instance, the premier college of Bengal. Here, we are afraid, the system of teaching that His Excellency the Chancellor has stigmatised as drudgery, is the fashion. Here with the principal and some of the senior professors giving synonyms for words used in the text goes by the name of teaching. A dull catalogue of synonyms interspersed here and there with the opinions of critics sometimes misquoted by the learners is all that the students carry home. The students are never encouraged to read their own meaning into the thoughts and ideas they come across, far less to enjoy them. That friction of mind against mind which, according to the learned President of the Commission, is so helpful to the proper assimilation of truth, is an unknown thing in the class-room here. The teachers

paraphrase the books and that sometimes very badly, and they are satisfied. All that tends to the creation of a taste for intellectual pleasure is safely omitted from the programme of the teachers. They can seldom communicate to the learners love of learning and a desire to cultivate the habit of independent thinking.

"The few men that do not narrow their ideals are shunted off to the inspecting line as if better inspectors are required than better professors. Something must be done to improve the *personnel* of teachers who in the name of teaching only supply cooked food to the learners, and supplement their meagre income by writing crambooks.

"Next as to the text-books. What make those who waxed so eloquent over the rottenness of the prevailing system of education while giving evidence before the Commission prescribe worthless text-books with their eyes wide open? They all refer to the incompetent knowledge of English with which the students begin their college study. But what can be expected of those who have to wade through a historical text-book in which one can pick many grammatical holes, not to speak of the inelegant and unintelligible expressions with which it bristles.

"From such sources are our students to draw their inspiration and then clothe their thoughts, if they are made to have any, in chaste and correct English. In selecting text-books the persons concerned show an amount of culpable negligence. In some previous issues of our paper we took to pointing out the barefaced errors of a mathematical text-book which has secured a permanent place in the curriculum for the F. A. Examination. In our next issue we propose to go into detail about the selection of text-books.

"While setting papers, not the least attempt is made to circumvent cramming. This can be very easily done if the examiners only care to do their work properly. Instead of asking the students to demonstrate that any three angles of a triangle are together equal to two right angles, the question may be framed this way:—If P Q R is a triangle, show that the angles at P, Q and R are together equal to two right angles. Questions of this nature can act as a sufficient safeguard against students resorting to memory even in getting up mathematics. If text-books were altogether dispensed with, the "key-makers" could not do the mischief they have been doing, and the students might gradually be led on to be conversant with the best portions of the English literature without confining their attention to a few chosen pieces.

"It is not for us to form a complete scheme for the Commission. We can only bring to its notice the specific evils that in our opinion vitiate the prevailing system of education. It is the exposure of these and not the framing of vague charges that can be of any use to the Commission in determining its line of conduct."

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

14. Referring to the reassessment of municipal rates which is going on in Calcutta, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes as follows:—

Re-assessment of residential houses in Calcutta.

Accumulation of refuse in the streets, scarcity of water and distraint of chattels for the realisation of rates have become daily occurrences in Calcutta. But with the current re-assessment of rates which is going on, a cry of distress has been raised by the rate-payers. Already the work of re-assessment has been completed in Wards Nos. I and VI. Those who think that the valuation of houses are being made with due care and consideration are mistaken; for the valuations have nowhere been reduced, but have been everywhere increased 25 to 90 per cent. Recently some leading gentleman of the town approached Mr. Greer as representatives of the rate-payers of Wards Nos. I and VI. Mr. Greer received them with courtesy, calmly heard what they had to say, and promised that the matter would be duly considered by him. Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu has won the gratitude of the rate-payers of Calcutta by making certain statements on that occasion. He said, although the rate of interest on Government Paper has been reduced to 3 per cent., yet the rate of municipal assessment still remains 5 per cent. on the valuation. Why should people therefore incur loss by building houses in Calcutta? In the northern division of Calcutta, i.e., in Ward No. I, no

BASUMATI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

house brings rent at the rate of 5 per cent. on its valuation. Again, the margin of 10 per cent., which is deducted from valuations in the case of rented houses, is not deducted in the case of residential houses. The values on which houses are assessed in Calcutta are never realised by sale. As a matter of fact the selling values of houses in Calcutta fall much short of their municipal valuations. The rate-payers of the northern division of the town are almost all permanent residents, and are not in well to-do circumstances. They do not own houses in the mufassal where they may remove themselves. It is upon these people that the burden of oppressive taxation falls most heavily. Government has expressly ordered that the rate-payers should not be oppressed with heavy taxation. Cannot the Municipality work in the spirit of the Government order? As a matter of fact the value of houses in Calcutta has considerably fallen within the last six years on account of the earthquake of 1897 and the plague. But the Municipality is increasing the valuation of these houses 25 to 90 per cent. One may say, let people have the valuation of their houses fixed by the Civil Court. But "such a remedy is very expensive and absolutely beyond the means of the large mass of rate-payers." Again, the increase in the valuations of houses will entail a proportionate increase in the income-tax, because income-tax is assessed on the valuations of houses made by the Municipality.

This is Bhupendra Babu's statement. The *Englishman* newspaper however reveals the real truth. It says: It has been decided that the large sum of two crores and seventy lakhs of rupees must be spent in improving the health of the northern division of Calcutta by opening out some large roads in it. There was discussion as to who should supply the sinews of war. Some people said the Imperial Government, while others said the Bengal Government. But it has been now finally decided that it is the Calcutta Municipality which must take the burden on its own shoulders. And the new reassessment is only a means to an end—the realisation of two crores and seventy lakhs of rupees from the rate-payers.

In truth why should the Imperial Government bear the expense? Why should Madras and Bombay subscribe to the fund which is required for the improvement of the hygienic condition of Calcutta? Why, again, should even the Bengal Government pay the money? The mufassal is not bound to pay for the improvement of Calcutta. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* however says that when the coffers of the Imperial and Provincial Governments were opened to meet the requirements of Simla, Darjeeling and Nainital, why should not the same thing be done in the case of Calcutta? But the *Patrika* should have considered that the above three seats of pleasure and luxury are jewels in the crown of India, without which Britain could not rule this country. When Simla, Darjeeling and Nainital are indispensable to the proper working of the Government of India, it is only meet that the Imperial Government should pay for their improvement. But it is the rate-payers of Calcutta who should bear the cost of improving the condition of their town. We admit this. But may we ask, why did not the bad hygienic condition of the northern division of Calcutta so long draw the attention of the city fathers? Could not the condition of the northern division of Calcutta be much bettered by applying a portion of the Municipal money year after year to its improvement? The fact is when the Municipal money has been expended in improving the condition of the European quarter, the city fathers have awakened to the fact that the other quarters remain to be improved. Therefore this re-assessment of rates!

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 15th, 1902.

15. The Midnapore correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes:—On the 15th of *Falgun*,
Complaints from Midnapore. a little after 12 noon, a large number of vultures

fell upon and killed a young woman of village Narachaknan in Gumgarh in Midnapore district. On the 13th *Falgun* preceding, a cow had been similarly killed in village Narsingpur. Cholera and small-pox have broken out in Gumgarh. The vaccinated are being attacked with small-pox. Crops have been seriously damaged by flood and insects, and there is a scarcity of food in many places. Salt water has got into several tanks and pools, thus rendering their water unfit for drink. Will the District Magistrate of Midnapore see to all this?

16. A correspondent, writing to the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 16th March, says that the condition of the following villages in thana Pausa, subdivision Goalundo, district Faridpur, is extremely wretched :—Mrigidanga, Parnarainpur, Sabek Narainpur, Monkuri, Shaolbarhi, Bherhamasa, etc. The villages are full of jungle. There are no roads or lanes in them. Malaria rages there furiously all the year round. The supply of pure drinking water is quite inadequate. There is no educational institution, except an upper primary school at Monkuri, founded by Babu Hridya Nath Mitra. But even this school is likely to be closed soon owing to shortness of funds. Will the authorities inquire into and remove the wants of the villagers?

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 16th, 1902.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

17. *Al Punch* [Patna City] of the 14th March says that it appears from the speech delivered by Raja Peari Mohan Mukharji at a recent Meeting of the British Indian Association, that a measure against the Permanent Settlement of Bengal is in the contemplation of Government. The Permanent Settlement is good both for the Government and the people. The Government knows full well that the existence of the zamindars is indispensably necessary for it, as it receives much help from them. This help, however, will cease with the abolition of the Permanent Settlement.

AL PUNCH,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

18. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th March hears that Mr. J. J. Conolly, Chief Auditor of the Assam-Bengal Railway at Chittagong, treats the native clerks under him very harshly. He refuses to entertain applications for increase of salary, threatens everybody with dismissal for the slightest irregularity or unpunctuality in attendance, and insists on work even on recognised holidays. For instance, during the last Dussera some clerks were allowed holiday for four or five days, others for seven or eight days—nobody getting full twelve days. They had to work on the Emperor's Birthday, on the Saraswati Puja day, and on the Sivaratri day; and some of them were severely reprimanded for having had the audacity to ask for leave on the day of the solar eclipse.

JYOTI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

19. The same paper says that there was the usual crowd of pilgrims at the last Sitakundu *Mela*, but the Railway authorities did not move even their little finger to minimise the inconvenience and hardship of the passengers. Fourteen, fifteen and even twenty persons were shoved into space that could only accommodate eight; and even waggons for the carriage of goods, animals, coal and timber, were pressed into service to carry human beings. Some more respectable persons among the passengers applied to the Station Master for accommodation, who, after consulting the Traffic Manager by wire, replied that they might get a special train on payment of Rs. 110. This was done, and each passenger paying annas eight, there was a larger collection than that amount. Then, the booking clerks in several instances took fares from the passengers, but did not make over tickets, and in some cases did not make payment of change. The matter was reported by wire to the Traffic Manager by Babu Jagat Chunder Das, the pensioned Sherishtadar of the local Collectorate. Have the authorities punished the offenders? The Government ought to inquire into the matter.

JYOTI.

20. The same paper says it is worthy of note that although scarcely a thousand rupees are paid by the tea concerns in the Chittagong district as road-cess, managers of tea-gardens constitute the majority in the District Board. The result is that while each such member is entrusted with money from the District Board fund for the purpose of repairing village roads in his jurisdiction, the money is spent in repairing the roads used by the tea-garden people, and no care is taken of the village roads proper. Mr. Barnell, of Fatikchari, took money of the District Board

JYOTI.

for repairing the village roads; but the people of Fatikehari complain that for the last five or six years nothing has been done towards that object, and the village roads are in a wretched condition. The people of Banskali make a similar complaint in regard to Mr. Mackenzie of Chandpur. Will the proper authorities inquire?

HITVADI,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

21. The *Hitvadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th March has the following:—

Railway complaints.

(1) There is no denying that the Indian railways do not supply sufficient numbers of waggons to the coal-mines. Although both the European and native mine-owners become losers by this, yet it is the latter who suffer most, because the railway companies show great partiality towards the former, whose demands for waggons are met as promptly as possible. But the demands of native mine-owners for waggons are unheeded. Their coal lies gathered in immense heaps at the mouths of the pits. Export ships wait in the ports, but the coal cannot be supplied for want of waggons. It is damaged in its place, and contracts for sale are made void by lapse of time. How long can the native mine-owners, who work with very limited capitals, bear such loss? It behoves the Government to oblige the railway companies to supply sufficient numbers of waggons to the mines.

(2) It being left to the consideration of the railway companies which of the mines should be supplied with assisted sidings, those owned by Europeans get them without any difficulty, whilst those owned by natives, if they get at all, get them with great difficulty and after considerable delay. The truth of this statement may be tested by enquiring how many Europeans and how many natives applied for assisted sidings, wharfs and loading accommodations during the last eighteen months, how many of them, respectively, have received them, and how many have not yet received them, and the applications of how many of them, respectively, have been rejected.

(3) Merchants frequently complain that their goods are stolen and delayed in transit. The Railway authorities should enquire why such complaints are more frequent against the Hathras Junction, Raniganj, Gaya and Bhadreswar Ghat stations, than against any other station. The thieves may not be detected, but it must be acknowledged that it is the incapacity and carelessness of railway servants which make such thefts possible. The railway company evades all responsibility by taking a risk-note from the unwary merchant. The enormity of such complaints can be realised by enquiring how many such complaints were made during the last eighteen months, how many complainants received compensation, how many complainants had to take the help of the law-courts, and how much money was paid as compensation and how much was expended in law-suits by the railway company during that period.

HITVADI.

22. A correspondent of the same paper says that the complaint, which had been published in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 7th December, 1901, paragraph 10), against some of the officers attached to the Rampurhat railway station on the East Indian Railway, was recently enquired into by Mr. Eliot, a Traffic Inspector. But neither Purna Sasi Babu, who had been insulted and unjustly confined by Ismail, the Ticket Collector of the station, nor any of the eye-witnesses of the occurrence was examined. Purna Sasi Babu was called to the station and repeatedly requested by Rajkrishna Babu, the favourite of Mr. Carter, the Station Master, not to say anything against Ismail. Unable to refuse the request, he asked Rajkrishna Babu to do something which would prevent him from appearing before the Traffic Inspector. He afterwards penned, at the request of Mr. Carter, a letter to the effect that he was obliged to leave the station on account of ill-health, gave it to Mr. Carter, and went home. He was again called to the station and requested by Mr. Carter to appear before the Traffic Inspector and answer his questions briefly. When he and Mr. Carter appeared before the Inspector, the two whitemen had a private talk with each other, after which the Inspector asked some minor questions to Purna Sasi Babu and abruptly decided that the complaint was false. After the enquiry Rajkrishna Babu has been promoted and the conscientious Assistant Station-Master, who made a diary of Purna Sasi Babu's insult at the hands of Ismail, has been transferred to another station.

A railway enquiry.

The editor expresses dissatisfaction with the enquiry, and says that he is ready to prove every word of what was written in this paper against the Rampurhat station.

23. The same paper says that communication between Nator town and Lochangaur, Bhadpara, Balia, Narayanpur, Chandrakola, Dolerbhag, Madhukhali and the neighbouring villages within the Nator subdivision of the Rajshahi district, is made extremely difficult by the want of a suitable road. The District Board has been petitioned several times within the last eight or ten years to join these villages with the Nator-Boalia District Board's road by a small road, but to no effect. A bridge is also greatly required east of the Lochangaur village over the road which joins the village Banial with the District Board's road through the villages Lochangaur and Narayanpur.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

24. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 15th March says that oppression by railway employes is greatly increasing. On the 16th instant a second class native lady passenger, bound for Jhajha, was forced by a guard at the Howrah Station to leave her carriage and make room for a Christian lady passenger. It is to be hoped that the Railway authorities will try to detect the wrong-doer and inflict upon him an exemplary punishment, so that no such act of oppression may be committed again.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 15th, 1902.

25. The Raipur correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th March says that a road should be constructed between Raipur and Bankura, but there is greater necessity for a road between Raipur and Gidhina. Will Government ask the Bankura and Midnapore District Boards to consider the matter?

BANKURA DARPAN,
Mar. 16th, 1902.

26. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 19th March says that Government has not sanctioned the construction of the railway line from Hooghly to Katwa *via* Kalna and thence *via* Ahmadpur to the collieries. This means the abandonment of the scheme. Is it that Government believes the line would not be a remunerative one? If so, we should ask Government to look into the matter again; for we think that the line is bound to be a profitable concern.

PALLIVASI,
Mar. 12th, 1902.

(h)—General.

27. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th March has the following under the heading, "Our Government and the Zamindar of Ula": —

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 12th, 1902.

Even Government has had to admit that the condition of the Indians has become very miserable. And with the increasing poverty of the Indians is increasing the financial difficulty of the Government. It has to expend crores of rupees every year in relieving the famine-stricken districts. But still the Government does not curtail its expenditure. The conduct of the Government reminds us of a conversation which once took place between the zamindar of Ula and one of his friends. It was as follows:—

Friend.—How is it faring with you?

Zamindar.—Do not ask anything of that kind. Circumstances have reached such a point as to make it very hard for me to defray expenses. I have to borrow every month.

Friend.—That is really a matter of regret. Let me tell you one thing. Curtail your unnecessary expenses.

Zamindar.—You need not advise me to do that. Your advise me to curtail my unnecessary expenses; but I have abolished them all.

Friend.—Is it?

Zamindar.—Formerly I had twenty male servants, but I have reduced their number to only eight. Formerly I had eight female servants, but I have reduced their number by two. My wife now looks after many household affairs. In fact, a gentleman's household affairs cannot be properly managed with less than six female servants. But I know not how to curtail the monthly allowance of Rs. 500 which I pay to my father-in-law's family. Without that they shall all starve.

The friend smiled, and thought within himself "What a fool! He says that a gentleman's household affairs cannot be properly managed with less

than six female servants, and that unless he pays Rs. 500 monthly to his father-in-law, his family will starve. But he does not think that he has not money to do all these, and has to defray his family expenses by loans. What a fool!"

There can be no doubt that the Zamindar of Ula was a fool. But we do not think that our Government is better. It has recently been proved by a report in Parliament that the public debt is gradually increasing in India. The Zamindar of Ula curtailed at least some of his expenses, but the Government of India is not prepared to curtail any of its expenses. On the other hand, as the *Pioneer* says, from next year the Indian Military expenditure will be increased.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th March says that recently four petty zamindars and two well-to-do people of the village Bagbari within the Sirajganj subdivision of the Pabna district received *parwanas* from the District Magistrate, the Joint Magistrate of Sirajganj, and Shaikh Abdul Sobhan, the Sub-Inspector of the Sirajganj thana, respectively, directing them to keep food, forage and elephants ready in view of the Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner's visit to the place in the course of his tour. On the 7th March the Commissioner came to the place accompanied by the District Magistrate, the Joint-Magistrate of Pabna, the District Engineer, the Police Inspector of Sirajganj, seven or eight Police Sub Inspectors, many police constables, and nearly 300 chaukidars, besides nearly a hundred other men. The zamindars had to furnish supplies for so many people, and at the same time to receive a rebuke from the Sub-Inspector of the Sirajganj thana, Shaikh Abdessamad, for making some little omissions.

Is it right and lawful to extort food and forage for nearly 600 men and a large number of animals from so many villages? If a Commissioner, a District Magistrate, a Joint-Magistrate and a District Engineer think this lawful, why should poor and unprincipled darogas and constables think otherwise?

JYOTI,
Mar. 13th, 1902.

29. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th March says that there has been much public inconvenience in Chittagong, and more especially in Patiya, owing to the shifting of the postal peons by order of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Chittagong. It is said that several petitions have been forwarded to the Deputy Postmaster-General, East Bengal Circle, complaining of non-receipt of postal articles or considerable delay in receiving them. The higher authorities ought to see to this.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 14th, 1902.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th March is glad that Lord George Hamilton has, on the recommendation of Mr. Fanshawe, the Director-General of the Post Office in India, fixed the fee on postal money-orders for sums not exceeding five rupees at one anna. This postal reform ought to be followed by another, viz., a reduction of the value of the post-card and of the postage of book-posts. It is incomprehensible why the postage which carries a book of a certain weight in England should not carry a book of the same weight in India. In India the cost of sending a book weighing 10 tolas is the same as that of sending a book weighing half a tola. This causes great hardship. The postage required for sending a book weighing five tolas or at least four tolas should be fixed at one pice. The high postage prescribed for the book post has the effect of preventing a wide circulation of cheap books, magazines, &c. The proposed reform, if effected, will increase the income of the post office instead of decreasing it.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 16th, 1902.

31. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 16th March congratulates Mr. Fanshawe, Director-General of the Post Office of India, on the reduction of the money-order fee on Rs. 5 and downwards. But what about value payable commission on similar amounts? Will Mr. Fanshawe make an explicit announcement on the subject? May we also respectfully request Mr. Fanshawe to see his way to reduce the newspaper postage—one and-a-half pie, instead of a quarter anna as at present, for a newspaper not weighing more than four tolas? Such a reduction would pave the way for cheap newspapers in India.

VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

32. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 16th March says that such auspicious events as the King's Coronation were, both during the Hindu and the Muhammadan rule, signalised in India by large public charities and benefactions. The people are now anxiously asking one another—will the British Government make similar charities and benefactions on the occasion of the coronation of King Edward VII? Various rumours are afloat in this connection. Some say that the Government will make a bonus of one month's salary to all its servants drawing less than Rs. 100 a month. Others say that Government will make large charities in aid of its poor and helpless subjects. The *Englishman* says that the income-tax should be abolished; but we think it would be better not to abolish the tax altogether, but to raise the minimum taxable income and exempt those who draw salaries below Rs. 100 a month. But the best thing to do would be to do away with the salt-tax. By doing so, Government will earn the lasting gratitude of the Indian poor. But it may be asked how to recoup the loss to the revenue that would be caused by the abolition of the salt-tax or the raising of the minimum taxable income? The answer is easy. Government may very well reduce the rate of the exchange compensation allowance now that India has got a fixed exchange.

The coming Coronation.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Mar. 16th, 1902.

33. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 17th March says that most probably the next *Id-ul-fitr* prayers will be read at the same hour at which the ceremony in connection with the Coronation of His Majesty will take place at the Delhi Durbar. Such being the case, those Musalmans who will be invited to the Durbar will have either to absent themselves from it or to omit their *Id* prayers. But neither of these alternatives is desirable. The best course would be to choose for the ceremony a time when the *Id* prayers, which are said a little before 10 A.M., will have been over.

The Delhi Coronation Durbar
and the *Id-ul-Fitr* festival.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATEEN,
Mar. 17th, 1902.

Lord Curzon ought to direct his attention to this point.

URIYA PAPERS.

34. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th March is sorry to state that small pox is creating havoc both in the Balasore district and in Mayurbhunj. The Rani of Mayurbhunj is reported to have died of the disease.

Small-pox in the Balasore
district and Mayurbhunj.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 5th, 1902.

35. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th March regrets that the mango blossoms were destroyed by the sun's heat, whereas one or two showers of rain might have saved the promising mango crop, that would have relieved the distress of the poor to a great extent. The *Utkal Dipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th March is of the same opinion.

Prospects of the mango crop in
Orissa.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Mar. 6th, 1902.

36. The *Utkal Dipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th March states that cow-pox has proved a source of great trouble to the agricultural population of the Cuttack district. The cattle in Darpan, a part of that district, are suffering much from the epidemic.

Cow-pox in the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Mar. 8th, 1902.

37. The *Kamarda* correspondent of the same paper states that symptoms of distress are already visible in the Kamarda thana of the Balasore district. Babus Gobardhan Ghosal, Navakrishna Ghosal and Kailash Chandra Rai have already undertaken to excavate tanks; that will give work to some poor men and women. The correspondent hopes that the District Magistrate of Balasore will do something to relieve distress before it is too late.

Distress in the Balasore district.

UTKALDIPIKA.

38. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th March draws the attention of the public to the fact that thorny bamboos in the Balasore district are dying out in numbers, and that this has become a marked phenomenon in the rural scenery in the interior of the district. The writer states that the ignorant and the illiterate look upon this as a harbinger of evils that are to come.

Dying out of thorny bamboos in
the Balasore district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 5th, 1902.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Mar. 5th, 1902.

39. The same paper is inclined to think that the constant flow of the stream of immigration from the Nilgiri Tributary State in Orissa suggests that there is something wrong in the economic condition of the people of that State, and it behoves the Raja of that place to sit down to work properly and examine minutely the causes that have compelled his home-loving people to emigrate to other districts in quest of labour or employment.

SAMVAD VANIKA,
Mar. 6th, 1902.

Lord George Hamilton on the condition of the agricultural population of India.

40. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th March is of opinion that the admission made by Lord George Hamilton in the House of Commons that the agricultural population of India are very poor in the course of His Lordship's reply to the speech of Mr. Caine is a great gain to India, for it will prevent His Lordship from declaring the Indians to be very prosperous in his future arguments or speeches.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Mar. 8th, 1902.

41. Referring to the present state of the weather and the rainless days, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th March states that the outlook is bad and that sufferings are

in store for the people. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] and the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] are of the same opinion.

UTKALDIPIKA,

42. The same paper praises Mr. Risley, the Census Commissioner, for the ability he has displayed by publishing correct census figures within one year from the date

of the census-taking, The difference between the preliminary and correct figures, when compared with the difference between such figures in the previous census, speaks highly in favour of the present census management.

UTKALDIPIKA.

43. The same paper exhorts the zamindars and other well-to-do people of the Orissa Division and Tributary States to send weavers and carpenters to the office of the Cuttack District Board to learn the art of hand-weaving by means of improved apparatus and the art of constructing the same. The Cuttack District Board has already made arrangements for imparting practical instruction in that branch of industry without charging any fee for it. The writer hopes that the Uriya public will not be found wanting in their appreciation of the benefits which the District Board intends to confer on them.

UTKALDIPIKA.

44. The same paper states that a man-eating tiger has proved the scourge of the village Harichandan near Kalkala Gurh in district Cuttack and that all village traffic has ceased through fear of the terrible animal. The writer hopes that some bold spirit will come forward to clear the village of the pest.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR.
Mar. 3rd, 1902.

45. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 3rd March has no doubt that everybody approves of the appointment of Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge. Babu Sarada Charan Mitra as an Officiating Judge. High Court in the place of Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerjee.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 22nd March, 1902.